

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 10376 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DACCA
ISLAMABAD KABUL LONDON BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS 05 AUG 74

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10376

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: SWARAN SINGH URGES TALKS IN LETTER TO AZIZ AHMED

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH WROTE HIS PAKISTANI
COUNTERPART, AZIZ AHMED, AUGUST 3 IN AN ATTEMPT TO MEET
PAKISTAN'S REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES ABOUT INDIA'S NUCLEAR INTEN-
TIONS AND COMMITMENT TO THE SIMLA AGREEMENT. INDIA WILL WAIT
FOR A WRITTEN PAKISTANI RESPONSE TO ITS PROPOSAL IN THE LETTER
THAT THE INDIA-PAKISTAN TALKS BE RESUMED WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS,
BUT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ALREADY WELCOMED BHUTTO'S REPORTED
OFFER IN QUETTA TO RESUME TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED (NEW DELHI 9929) FOREIGN MINISTER
WARAN SINGH'S MORE CONCILIATORY STATEMENT ON INDIA-PAKISTAN RE-
LATIONS TO PARLIAMENT JULY 25. ABOUT THE SAME TIME, BHUTTO
BEGAN TO TALK OF RESUMING THE INDIA-PAKISTAN NEGOTIATIONS
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SCHEDULED FOR MID-JUNE BUT POSTPONED BY PAKISTAN FOLLOWING INDIA'S

NUCLEAR TEST MAY 18. SWARAN SINGH MADE ANOTHER MILD STATEMENT OF INDIA-PAKISTAN (BUT STILL TOUGH ON ALLEGED PAKISTANI THREATS OF AFGHANISTAN) ON JULY 30 AND THEN, ON AUGUST 1, ONE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO SET THE STAGE FOR RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS.

2. ACCORDING TO ASHOK CHIB, HEAD OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PAKISTAN DIISION, AZIZ AHMED IN HIS JULY 10 LETTER AGREED THAT INDIA-PAKISTAN DISCUSSIONS SHOULD CONTINUE, BUT ONLY AFTER SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE ATMOSPHERE. AZIZ AHMED ASKED THAT INDIA PUBLICLY REAFFIRM ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE SIMLA AGREEMENT AND SPECIFY THAT THEY APPLIED ALSO TO POSSIBLE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. SWARAN SINGH'S AUGUST 1 STATEMENT, WHICH WAS PART OF HIS SPEECH WINDING UP THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE, SAID: "...WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY THOSE PROVISIONS WHICH ENJOIN ON BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN THAT THEY SHOULD RESPECT EACH OTHER'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE ALSO REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE IDEA THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO THREAT OR THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST EACH OTHER AND ALL DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE SETTLED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS BILATERALLY. IN VIEW OF THIS FACT AND IN VIEW OF THE ASSURANCES CONTAINED IN OUR PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER OF MAY 22 TO PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, PAKISTAN SHOULD REST ASSURED THAT THE BEST GUARANTEE FOR DURABLE PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT IS THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, WHICH SHOULD BE OBSERVED BY BOTH SIGNATORIES IN THE LETTER AND SPIRIT. THE CONSEQUENTIAL PROPOSITION AND LINE OF ACTION IS CLEAR; THE PARTIES SHOULD PICK UP THE THREADS AT THE POINT AT WHICH UNILATERALLY PAKISTAN CALLED OFF THE TALKS, AND WE SHOULD START SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENTING THE OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT AND SHOULD TAKE STEPS FOR ESTABLISHING DURABLE PEACE IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT."

4. SWARAN SINGH SENT THE TEXT OF THIS STATEMENT, WHICH WAS NOT REPORTED VERBATIM IN THE DELHI PRESS, TO AZIZ AHMED AUGUST 3. ACCORDING TO CHIB, THE COVERING LETTER REGRETTED THAT THE PAKISTANI ALLEGATIONS IN EARLY JULY OF AN INDIA MILITARY BUILDUP HAD ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE ATMOSPHERE. THE LETTER NOTED MRS. GANDHI'S NUCLEAR ASSURANCES TO PAKISTAN (HER LETTER OF MAY 22-- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW DELHI 7109) AND SAID THE GOI STOOD BY THEM. IT REGRETTED POSTPONEMENT OF THE TALKS AND SAID THAT THEY SHOULD BE RESUMED WITHOUT PROCONDITION. CHIB SAYS THAT INDIA WILL NOW WAIT FOR A PAKISTANI REPLY.

5. SEPARATELY, THE DELHI PAPERS AUGUST 5 REPORT THAT SWARAN SINGH TOLD THE PRESS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR HIS TEN-DAY EAST ASIAN TRIP THAT HE WELCOMED BHUTTO'S REPORTED STATEMENT IN QUETTA

AUGUST 4 THAT PAKISTAN WAS WILLING TO RESUME BILATERAL TALKS.
(BHUTTO WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED THE AUGUST 3 LETTER BY THEN,
ACCORDING TO CHIB, SO THIS WAS A PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT POSSIBLY
BASED ON SWARAN SINGH'S PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT.) SWARAN SINGH
IS ALSO QUOTED AS WELCOMING REPORTS THAT BHUTTO SAID HIS
DOUBTS ABOUT INDIA'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS HAD BEEN REMOVED.

6. FOR ISLAMABAD: THE GOI NOW SEEMS READY TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS
AT THE POINT THEY BROKE DOWN. WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE
GOP RESPONSE TO SWARAN SINGH'S LETTER.
MOYNIHAN UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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